Romans 6:12; 1 Corinthians 10:13

No sin encompasses you that God does not provide a path to escape. For those who desire to live a life that honors and glorifies God, I have good news for you – we really can. It is not without struggle, but God has given us a way to overcome even that we believe is impossible to overcome. We have all heard this before. However, we were not ready to receive it. The reason we were not ready to receive it is because like me, you were focused on self. We were focused upon what we wanted to do in that particular moment, whatever it was we wanted to do, that became priority number one.

The good news is sin no longer has any control over you. The reason why sin controls us is because of our focus. I am not trying to simplify the spiritual process that enables the Child of God to overcome sin. However, if we are truly honest with ourselves the un-surrendered self cannot overcome sin because we are stuck on and in ourselves. A woman promised to give a stain glass window in a new church on one condition, it was to be a picture of herself. Someone looking at the saints in stained-glass windows defined a saint as “one who lets the light through,” but when the light came through this particular stained-glass window, it did not reveal a saint, it revealed the woman instead. Sin is our seeking the choices of the almighty self; the self that has risen up and does not want to lay down no matter the cost.

Sin is and always been about what we the individual desires most. This means the things we desire most are the things we do. When we want what we want when we want it, in that moment we are priority number one. In our relationships we call people out of their names. On the job we lie, we cheat, and we steal. Why do we do this? To achieve what we want. Right and wrong does not enter into the

equation at all. What I want consumes ME. Our minds are fixed, planted in cement. There is nothing that even comes close to a second place when the Self wants what it wants. When have we ever sinned and did not allow our self-centered desires to dominate and control us?

In the Garden of Eden story when Adam and Eve hid from God, Adam continued telling God the woman you gave ME made me do it. She gave ME the fruit to eat and Adam became the victim, the person wronged because the Self could not tolerate, could not absorb the idea of being wrong or being accused of being wrong. Have you ever witnessed a person who was wrong being called out? Do you recall how vicious and hostile they became because someone announced or exposed their wrong? What you witnessed was the self. The all-important, self-inflated ME is the root of sin.

There is good news. Romans 6:12-13 (the Passion Bible Version) says,
“Sin is a dethroned monarch; so you must no longer give it an opportunity to rule over your life, controlling how you live and compelling you to obey its desires and cravings. So then, refuse to answer its call to surrender your body as a tool for wickedness. Instead, passionately answer God’s call to keep yielding your body to him as one who has now experienced a resurrected life!”

I want to make it very clear; the surrendered life is both the most fruitful life, and it is the most challenging to reach. The surrendered life is not the denouncing of Self. It is a willingly to choose, to submit all of your Self to the will, service, purpose of God. It is the loss of independent omnipotence that we are terrified of. It is the relinquishing the way society and the world has encouraged us to look

at ourselves. This feeling of authority we get when we feel superior to someone is anything but a surrendered spirit. However, we all know this is contrary to how God wants us to feel. Those who are sensitive to the movement of God's Holy Spirit want in that moment to avoid the consequences of that moment. We soon discover that we cannot. We believe there is spiritual a disconnect from God in those moments, when in fact the Child of God is never disconnected from God. **Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

We have a choice to surrender to sin or surrender to God's call, the Holy Spirit. It is our choice to make. However, one's choice leads to resurrection. The other leads to destruction and both involve and embrace surrender as a condition that allows God or sin to become the controlling force in our lives.

Choose surrendering to God and choose life. Embrace the victory that is ours in Christ. There is only one power in the world and that power is the Omnipotent power of God. All other power is fake – pretenders to the throne. Sin or self-centeredness cannot drive the car of your life unless you give the keys. Take control. Let go and Let God.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool